



American Rivers
Thriving By Nature

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AUG 17 2009

City of Nevada City

Nevada City Council
City Hall
317 Broad Street
Nevada City, California 95959

August 17, 2009

Dear Council Members:

On behalf of American Rivers and our partners, I would like to thank you for your thoughtful consideration of the project entitled Stormwater Management in the Yuba Watershed that was submitted to the California State Water Resource Control Board Clean Water State Revolving Fund Expanded Use Program under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

American Rivers is the leading national conservation organization standing up for healthy rivers so communities can thrive. Our organization protects and restores America's rivers for the benefit of people, wildlife, and nature. Founded in 1973, American Rivers has more than 65,000 members and supporters, with offices in Washington, DC and nationwide. We are fortunate to co-locate our California Regional Offices here in Nevada City, and in Berkeley.

The Stormwater Management in the Yuba Watershed Project is intended to construct green infrastructure stormwater management demonstration facilities to reduce sediment and pollutants in the Yuba River, create jobs in a financially disadvantaged community, and raise awareness around the benefits of these types of low impact design projects. American Rivers believes that green infrastructure projects like this one will greatly benefit the Yuba Watershed and will help make Nevada City a model demonstration site for green, low impact development in California.

Although American Rivers, our partners and the City were unable to establish sites for this project that would be exempt under the California Environmental Quality Act within the timeline of the funding source, we would like to express our gratitude to the City Council for allocating city staff hours to the development of possible project specifications and locations. We appreciated the staff's level of enthusiasm for the project, especially Vern Taylor, Doug Hobbs, and Bill Falconi, and their knowledge and creativity in working to find possible solutions.

In the future, American Rivers and our partners look forward to working successfully with Nevada City on projects such as this one that improves our community and its rivers.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Soderstrom, PhD
Senior Director of Conservation

take one of your suggestions (that we hadn't even thought of before our meeting with you guys). We've decided on the space to the left of the driveway to the public parking on Commercial St (in front of the new APPLE office). It will be landscaped + people won't be as likely to use it as a "bulletin board" (another bit of information you added to our equation)

when we were making our decision). We will now work with the Planning Commission (for sign approval, which should be easy, since this is outside of the Historical District) and with the APPLE Landscape Planner.

Thanks again for all your help with finding an appropriate place for this community-unifying public declaration of peace.

♥ Shirley McDonald

Coordinator of
Grandmothers
For Peace of
Nevada County

Tender Thoughts

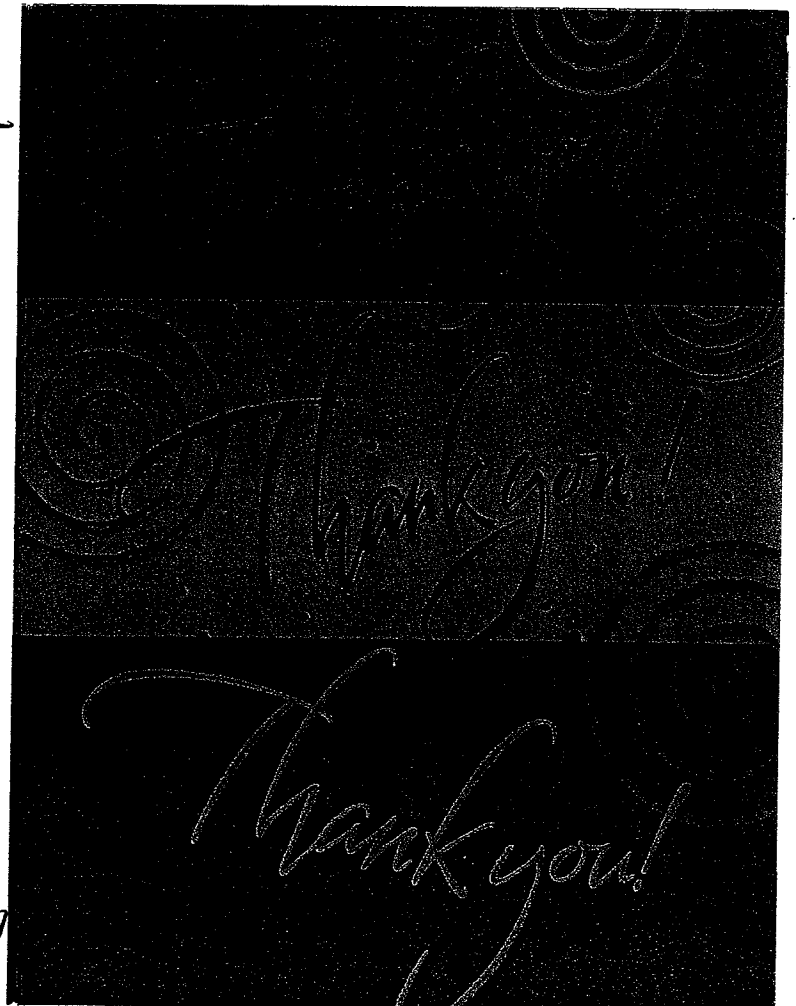
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Dear Bill + Vern —

You're terrific!

Wanted to thank you for the meeting and "walk about" and the help you provided in deciding the location of our city's new Peace Pole.

We (Grandmothers for Peace) had our meeting on Tuesday and decided to



Gene Albaugh

From: Jane Flickinger [jkf@infostations.com]
Sent: Thursday, August 13, 2009 1:00 PM
To: Gene Albaugh
Subject: Thank you one and all

Gene,

I was so absolutely overwhelmed last night that I know I did not express my gratitude adequately. I still can't quite believe the distinction of receiving the exquisite golden key and the incredibly complimentary words of Resolution 2009-47. I am extremely honored and want to express my appreciation to everyone at city hall, the council and the commission for the confidence they placed in me.

Thank you one and all!

Jane

8/14/2009

Save Malakoff Diggins State Historic Park Renewable Energy Citizen's Committee

Members

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Project Description

General Site Description

Malakoff Diggins SHP comprises approximately 3,200 acres of mixed oak / conifer woodland between 2,500' and 4,000' elevation in the northern Sierra Nevada foothills region. The park was created in 1965 to preserve the fascinating and historically significant story of hydraulic gold mining related to the California Gold Rush era.

The primary interpretive period is 1855 – 1910. Malakoff Diggins SHP is the only California State Park unit which currently serves that particular interpretive period.

Malakoff Diggins also preserves the most scenic hydraulic mining pit remaining in California, as an enduring testimony to the scale of environmental impact that hydraulic mining caused throughout the central and northern California region. The ghost town of North Bloomfield offers a unique window through which visitors and students can experience life in a circa-1880's gold mining community.

Overnight visitors can choose between a shady, restful campsite in Chute Hill campground or a rustic "Miner's Cabin." The group campsite accommodates up to 60 people. Over 20 miles of scenic hiking and biking trails range from very easy to strenuous, and connect directly with the famous South Yuba River Trail. Three popular special events offer important recreational opportunities for nearby communities and the region: the Children's Fishing Derby in May, Humbug Day in June, and the Labor Day Games and Ice Cream Social in September.

The Environmental Living Program (ELP) provides fourth grade students the opportunity to spend the night in the historic town of North Bloomfield and examine the California Gold Rush more directly. One of only twelve ELP programs statewide, the experience at Malakoff Diggins is a favorite of teachers as far away as the San Francisco Bay Area and Central Coastal California.

Project Proposal

Current California budget conditions have created an opportunity to reexamine efficiency standards and offer proposals for streamlining operations and creating more efficient conditions. Power generation at Malakoff Diggins SHP can easily be converted from a current reliance on large capacity diesel generators to a simple off-grid photovoltaic array with generator backup. Malakoff Diggins SHP would be the first California State Park to significantly reduce its carbon footprint, and would save the California Department of Parks and Recreation an estimated \$100,000 annually.

Project Details

Current Conditions

The park gets all electricity from a Volvo diesel generator which runs 24 hours per day, seven days per week. At current diesel fuel prices this costs DPR approximately \$4,000 per month. The off-grid photovoltaic array with batteries will offset this cost by 100% April – October, and 75% November – March.

Conversion to a photovoltaic system will be accomplished in two phases:

Phase One

Purchase and install a battery system to offset current generator use by 50%. Experienced off-grid solar system designers estimate this will cost approximately \$70,000.⁰⁰

Phase Two

Install solar panels behind the Sherwood House in the town of North Bloomfield. Panels will be installed several feet from the ground, with a security fence around them and a historically appropriate wooden fence installed in front of the security fence. Batteries and inverter would be located on the current site of the former generator shed, approximately 680 feet away.

An automatic transfer switch will be included in the system to signal a backup generator to come on during periods of significant cloud cover or if demand exceeds output. Phase two will cost approximately \$125,000.⁰⁰

Photovoltaic System Maintenance

System maintenance would consist of rinsing the solar panels off with water once per month, maintaining water in the batteries, and changing the oil in the generators as needed.

Other Power Options Examined

- On-grid Network

In 2008 a committee of DPR employees from Sierra District and the Northern Service Center was formed to examine the feasibility of connecting Malakoff Diggins to the PG&E power grid approximately three miles away. This option was to cost approximately \$750,000 and was concluded to be too cost prohibitive.

- Hydroelectric

Humbug Creek runs all year and is located approximately 100 yards behind the area where the generators are located. Several reputable renewable energy specialists have suggested that a simple hydroelectric system should complement the photovoltaic system in the future.

Fundraising Plan

Funds will be sought from a variety of sources.

1. Seek immediate fiscal support from corporate entity to purchase and install batteries to immediately offset cost of generator by 50%.
2. Identify and hire a qualified grant-writer.
3. Obtain initial funds from Malakoff Diggins Park Association (MDPA) to pay grant-writer a sum of \$1,000.⁰⁰ up-front.
4. Identify willing partner in county / city municipality willing to partner with us for eligibility to apply for federal economic recovery funds.